

Appln. No. 10/675,273
Amendment dated May 9, 2005
Reply to Office Action mailed February 10, 2005

REMARKS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3 through 6, 10 through 16, 18, 19, 21, and 22 remain in this application. Claims 2, 7 through 9, 17 and 20 have been cancelled. No claims have been withdrawn or added.

Paragraph 2A of the Office Action

Claims 7 through 9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Scheuermann 5720312 in view of Aoshima 5152365.

Claims 7 through 9 have been cancelled, and therefore the §103(a) rejection of claims 7 through 9 is submitted to be moot.

Paragraph 2B of the Office Action

Claims 17 through 19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Scheuermann in view of Aoshima, and further in view of Brown 5732788.

Claim 17 has been cancelled.

Claim 18 has been amended to include the requirements of claim 20, which was indicated in the Office Action as being allowable over the prior art, and therefore claim 18, as well as claim 19 which depends from claim 18, is submitted to be in condition for allowance.

Withdrawal of the §103(a) rejection of claims 18 and 19 is therefore respectfully requested.

Paragraph 4A of the Office Action

Claims 1, 3 through 6 and 10 through 16 have been allowed.

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Paragraph 4C of the Office Action

Paragraph 4C of the Office Action states that claims 21 and 22 would be allowable if written into independent form with the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.


The above amendment incorporates the limitations of claim 17 into the recitation of claim 21, and therefore claim 21 is believed to be in condition for allowance. Similarly, the above amendment incorporates the limitations of claim 17 into the recitation of claim 22, and therefore claim 22 is believed to be in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, early reconsideration and allowance of this application are most courteously solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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